

School Business – September 11, 2020

The FBS website continues to be updated with COVID-19 policies and information related to School Business and operations, as well as our ongoing operations. Please check this site regularly for updates: www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/financial-and-business-services

Recent posts:

- COVID Allotment Policy Manual 2020-21 Updated September 8, 2020
- Schedule of COVID Funds as of September 10, 2020

Zero Out for August

We anticipate processing the Zero Out for the month of August next week. This processing will include July's and August activity. If the accrual reversals were not posted to your books in July or August there will be an adverse impact on the Zero Out.

For LEAs that need to have their July Installment Summary and Payroll files rebuilt, please resubmit to DPI by Monday, **September 14, 2020** by 11:59pm. If DPI does not receive the updated files, the zero out process may result in your district having FY 2020 cash being pulled back. Please notify Icilma Burroughs once you resubmit your files.

If you have any questions, please send them to Icilma Burroughs at Icilma.Burroughs@dpi.nc.gov.

FY 2020 - 13th Month MFR File – Reminder - LEAs only

This is a reminder that DPI will need to have your final FY 2020 13th month MFR by Wednesday evening, **September 16, 2020**. Please make sure your LEA is signed into FY 2020.

If you made changes to your general ledger since your last FY 2020 13th month MFR file, please rebuild your 13th month MFR data files.

If you did not make any changes to your last FY 2020 13th month MFR files, then you do not need to do anything. If you have any questions, please contact Roxane Bernard at roxane.bernard@dpi.nc.gov.

Voluntary Shared Leave Reporting 2019-2020 - LEAs only

(Excludes Independent Public School Operations: Charter Schools, Lab Schools, Regional Schools and the Innovative School District)

This survey is collected annually in response to General Statute 126-8.3(c) and is due **September 23, 2020**.

The survey is posted on the Financial and Business Services home page at www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/financial-and-business-services under What's New or accessed directly at www.surveymonkey.com/r/QVWXWB2.

Note: Do not enter decimal points or any symbols when entering numbers.

If you have questions about the survey, please contact Angela Harrison in the Division of School Business at 984-236-2449 or angela.harrison@dpi.nc.gov.

HB1105 – SL2020-97 Temporary flexibility for Transportation Allotment

For the 2020-2021 school year, LEAs may use funds in the transportation allotment PRC056 for the following additional purposes related to the COVID-19 pandemic:

1. School nutrition.
2. School- and community-based child care.
3. Sanitizing schools and buses.
4. In order to facilitate in-person instruction, personal protective equipment that meets applicable federal standards and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
5. Remote instruction.

School Business will modify the chart of accounts for PRC056 to accommodate some of the anticipated expenditures that are not allowable in other PRCs in the State Public School Fund. ABC transfers are permissible from PRC056 with no penalty to the allotment formulas for 2021-22.

Please contact Roxane Bernard roxane.bernard@dpi.nc.gov for additional requests.

Tydings Amendment and CARES Act Funding

The Tydings Amendment is a Federal provision that extends the period of availability for certain formula grants administered by the U.S. Department of Education for an additional 12 months beyond the fiscal year in which they are awarded. As a result of the Tydings Amendment and the difference in the Federal and State fiscal year, the standard U.S. Department of Education formula grants like Title I, Part A, IDEA, Title II, Part A, Title III, Part A, etc. have a period of availability totaling 27 months (July 1 to September 30 two years later).

While the K-12 Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF – PRCs 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, and 168) and the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER – PRCs 169 and 170) authorized under the CARES Act are unique programs given the context of the coronavirus pandemic, both programs are nonetheless formula grants administered by the U.S. Department of Education. The U.S. Department of Education has, through non-regulatory guidance, made clear that the expectation is that the Tydings Amendment would apply to the CARES Act funds despite the CARES Act itself listing September 30, 2021 as the expiration date for the funds.

As a result of this application of the Tydings Amendment to the ESSERF and GEER programs, the period of availability end date would be extended by a further 12 months to September 30, 2022.

Based on the guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, we fully anticipate that the ESSERF and GEER funds will be available for obligation until September 30, 2022. However, because this was stated in nonregulatory guidance and the CARES Act funds are not standard programs, we are still unsure whether something more formal will be issued with the U.S. Department of Education to support this position. Accordingly, the State Board approved allotment policies for the PRCs list "September 30, 2021 + Tydings" to reflect the U.S. Department of Education guidance related to these funds.

Federal Programs Monitoring and Support Division Update

Notice from USED - Federal Guidance Portal and Guidance Review

The US Department of Education has created a guidance portal located at- <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/types-of-guidance-documents.html>. This portal links to a searchable index of all of the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education's (OESE's) guidance documents written to support the implementation of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act. The guidance documents found in the portal are effective as of the date issued and provide guidance that is non-binding both in law and practice.

OESE completed a comprehensive review of its guidance documents and rescind guidance that was deemed outdated, unnecessary, or ineffective. To this end, the Department published a notice in the Federal Register on August 31, 2020, notifying the public of the guidance documents rescinded by the Department as a result of its review. At this time, OESE has a total of 46 guidance documents that have been rescinded as a part of this effort. These documents are being rescinded because they are outdated or have been superseded, and therefore are no longer relevant. Information specific to those guidance documents that have been rescinded, as of the date of the Department's notice, is available at www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/31/2020-19144/notice-of-the-rescission-of-outdated-guidance-documents.

Innovative Childcare and Remote Extended Support (ICARES) Grant Application

The purpose of the ICARES grant is to fund high-quality, independently validated extended learning and integrated student support service programs for Pre-K-8 at-risk students that raise standards for student academic outcomes and will be a competitive grant opportunity processed through the CCIP system. ICARES grant amounts will range from \$200,000 to \$500,000 depending on the number of at-risk students identified to be served. Only Districts, Charter Schools and Lab Schools are eligible.

Only applications submitted through CCIP will be reviewed and evaluated. Applications must be submitted through CCIP by 5:00 pm EDT on **October 5, 2020**. Applications received after 5:00 pm EDT on October 5, 2020 will not be accepted.

A CCIP training focusing upon ICARES grant application completion will be held on Wednesday, **September 16, 2020**. Click on the following to register: [ICARES CCIP Technical Assistance Webinar](#).

ICARES website: www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/federal-program-monitoring/icares.

If you have questions about ICARES, please contact Melissa Eddy at Melissa.eddy@dpi.nc.gov.

Exceptional Children Division Update

Special State Reserve

The PSU can apply for Risk Pool or Special State Reserve funding for students eligible for funding while the student is being served remotely. The funds may be held by DPI until the PSU returns to in-person instruction.

Indicate in the narrative if the student is currently served remotely or in-person. If remote, an update will need to be provided upon re-entry to in-person instruction.

Maintenance of Effort (MOE)

The MOE Expenditures for the 2019-2020 school year is due by **October 31, 2020**. The MOE Expenditure section of the IDEA grant will be open for submission by the end of September for all PSUs with an approved IDEA grant. All others will be open for submission after the IDEA grant has been approved.

The MOE Calculation Form. Justification Form has been uploaded to the NCCCIP Grant System in the NCDPI Resources Section under EC Resources tab.

REMINDER: PRC 132 COVID-19 Relief Act Funding Update

Due to a portion of unallotted funds after the grant application process, an approximately 16% increase to the second COVID-19 Relief Act grant allotment has been applied to approved applications. This second allotment of funding will be made in the near future. If there are expenditures from the additional funds that your PSU needs to make that are not aligned to your original PRC 132 applications, please alert your Regional Coordinator so this update can be made to the second grant application. Expenditures must align to the Public School Units (PSUs) application and be an allowable expense within the chart of accounts. Please be aware, there will be additional information in the near future concerning reporting requirements for these funds. As a reminder, these funds must be expended by 12/31/2020. If you believe you will be unable to spend your allotted PRC 132 funds in this timeframe, please alert your Regional Coordinator as soon as possible.

Reminders

- 2020-21 Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund - Application due **September 15, 2020**
Details are in the August 28, 2020 newsletter. *

- September PSBCF and NBPSCF Lottery Distribution Requests - Requests due **September 25, 2020**
Details are in the August 28, 2020 newsletter. *
- PRC 082 - Expenditure report is **due September 30, 2020**
Details are in the September 4, 2020 newsletter. *
- 2020 Statewide Facility Needs Survey – Surveys due **January 8, 2021**
Details are in the August 28, 2020 newsletter. *

* www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/financial-and-business-services/school-district-finance-operations/procedures-and-guidance#newsletter



Public Schools of North Carolina
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction